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FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

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RECIPIENT INFORMATION:

TO: Examiner Andrew Yang

FIRM: USPTO

FACSIMILE NUMBER: 5712733472

SENDER'S INFORMATION:

FROM: Rory Pheiffer

VOICE NUMBER: 617-439-2879 FACSIMILE NUMBER: 617-310-9879

COMMENTS:

Dear Examiner Yang,

Attached please find the amendments we discussed earlier today as potential examiner's amendments following your original proposal to me for an examiner's amendment. I have only include claims 1 and 60-63, although the other claims remain pending.

Please call me to let me know if these are acceptable.

Thank you.

Best regards,
Rory Pheiffer

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

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Client: 0101896 Matter: 00366

APPLICANTS' PROPOSED CLAIM AMENDMENTS TO BE MADE BY EXAMINER
FOLLOWING
THE EXAMINER'S AMENDMENTS THAT WERE PROPOSED TO APPLICANTS

1. (Currently Amended) A spinal fixation system, comprising:
- at least two bone anchors having a bone-engaging portion and a rod receiving portion with opposed arms that receive a rod therebetween;
 - a rod disposable between the opposed arms of the rod receiving portion of one of the at least two bone anchors for connecting the bone anchors; and
 - a connecting plate having a distal surface that bears against a proximal terminal end surface of each of the opposed arms of the rod receiving portion of at least one of the bone anchors, the connecting plate connecting the at least two bone anchors.

60. (Currently Amended) A method of fixing vertebrae relative to each other, comprising the steps of:

implanting a first bone anchor ~~and a second bone anchor in on opposite sides of a first vertebra and a second vertebra~~, each of the first and second bone anchors including opposed arms of a rod receiving portion and each of the opposed arms having a proximal terminal end surface, respectively;

~~connecting disposing a fixation element between the opposed arms of the rod receiving portion of the first and second bone anchors with a fixation element; and~~

positioning a distal surface of a connecting plate on ~~a the~~ proximal terminal end surfaces of each of ~~the~~ opposed arms of ~~a the~~ rod receiving portions of the first and second bone anchors; and
~~by inserting a closure mechanism through the connecting plate to engage the rod receiving portion of the first bone anchor.~~

61. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 60, further including the steps of:

implanting a third bone anchor in ~~the first a second~~ vertebra ~~on a side of the spine opposite the first bone anchor~~, the third bone anchor including a ~~proximal bearing surface~~ receiving portion, and
~~coupling the connecting plate to the proximal bearing surface of the third bone anchor~~ connecting the first and third bone anchors with the fixation element by disposing the fixation element between the opposed arms of the rod receiving portion of the third anchor.

62. (Original) The method of claim 61, wherein the fixation element is a rod.

63. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 61, further including the steps of:
implanting a fourth bone anchor in the second vertebra on a side of the spine opposite the
~~second~~third bone anchor, the fourth bone anchor including a proximal bearing surface, and
coupling a connecting plate to ~~the~~a proximal bearing surface of the ~~second~~third bone anchor
and to the proximal bearing surface of the fourth bone anchor.